Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M: 35-65

1. Name of	Property	(indicate pref	erred name)			
nistoric	Taylor-Britton					
and/or common	Boxwood					
2. Location	1		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
street & number	3815 Bradley	Lane	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	mat for	and the state of t	
city, town	Chevy Chase			not for publication		
state	Maryland		county Montgomery		or	
3. Classific				- Trioning officer y		
Category district) building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both	Pro	esent Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:		
4. Owner o	f Property	(give names	and mailing addresses o	of all owners)		
treet & number	Peter Terpel				·	
	3815 Bradley	Lane		telephone no:		
ity, town	Chevy Chase			state and zip code	Maryland 20815	
	of Legal [)escripti	on	,		
ourthouse, registry		Montgomery	County Courthouse	Tax Map and Parcel	HN341; Pt. Lots 9 & 10, Bl.2	
ity, town Rockvill		Maryland		Liber and Folio	04834/0714	
3. Primary	Location of	f Addition	onal Data			
Individually List Contributing R Contributing R Determined El	sted in the Nationa lesource in Nationa lesource in Local H ligible for the Natio	l Register al Register Dist distoric District nal Register	rict			

7. Description	Survey No.	M: 35-65	
Condition X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair altered	Culvey No.	141. 33-03	
Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description Resource Count:	ion of the resource and its various elemen	nts as it exists today.	

See attached

M:35/65: Taylor-Britton House (1906)
Boxwood
3815 Bradley Lane
Section 7:2

The Taylor-Britton House, known more commonly as Boxwood, is a substantial frame residence located on the north side of Bradley Lane in the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3. Constructed in 1906, the house was originally a 2-1/2-story frame dwelling consisting of a five-bay main block with rear ell, and a two-story, one-bay west side wing with an open first story. The central block had three dormers with brick end chimneys and a single-story central porch. In the 1920s, the dwelling was elongated by a two story, four bay east addition, built in two stages but now reading as one wing; it was further expanded by enclosure of the first story of the west wing.

Today, the house consists of three parts: the central and main block, seven bays long, a rear ell, and two side bays. The west side bay, part of the original building, is slightly lower than the main block. The two story east bay was added in two stages: the westernmost part was built in 1922, to accommodate a morning room with sleeping porch above. In c1929, this wing was expanded to its current four bay appearance. Each of the three sections is covered with a separate hipped or half-hipped roof, clad with slate shingles.

The south elevation, facing Bradley Lane, is twelve bays long. The central block consists of seven bays defined by single 1/1 replacement windows. A double-story Classical portico is located off-center of this main block, extending between the second and fifth bays. This portico, built c1929, replaced the earlier one-story porch; it is supported by four stylized wood columns with acanthus leaf capitals supporting a plain entablature and unadorned pediment. This south elevation of the side wings consists of similar single, 1/1 replacement windows. Four gable dormers are irregularly placed on the roof: two are found on the roof of the east wing addition, while two are located on the central block, to either side of the portico. The dormers have steep gable roofs and round-headed, double-hung sash and most probably date from c1929 when the portico was added.

After 1937, the living space of the house was further expanded when the basement of the house was excavated and the attic converted from storage room. Between 1941 and 1958, a laboratory outbuilding was constructed which has been used as a guest cottage in more recent years. The western portion of the property, closer to Connecticut Avenue, is extensively landscaped with ornamental and deciduous trees as well as a variety of flowering bushes and shrubs. A small tennis court is located on the northwest portion of the site. An approved subdivision plan of 1996 reduces the lot to 0.9 acres, allowing construction of another dwelling west of the historic house.

8. Signifi	сапсе	Survey No. M:35-65
Period1600-16991700-17991800-18991900-	Areas of Significancearcheology- prehistoricarcheology-historicagriculturearchitectureartcommercecommunications	Check and justify below X community planning
Specific dates	1906	Bullder/Architect George N. Ray (c1922); Philip Jullien, Attribution (c1929)
	r ele Exceptions: A Significance: natio	B C D E F
FORICAL CONT		
<u>.</u>		REHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA
Geographic Organization:		Piedmont
Chronologi	cal/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Prehistoric/	Historic Period Theme(s):	Architecture and Community Planning
Resource 1	Гуре:	Individual
Category:		Residential
Historic Environment:		Surburban
Hi	storic Function(s) and Use	Residential
Kı	nown Design Source:	Architect, George N. Ray
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Architect, George N. Ray Architect, Philip Jullien

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 8:2

Prominently located on a spacious lot near the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane, the Taylor-Britton House (1906), also known as Boxwood, is historically significant for the distinguished owners who have sustained and enhanced the property over nearly 100 years. The house is named for the first two owners. The residence is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of early estate architecture from the post-Victorian era.

The initial purchase of this property predates the Chevy Chase Land Company's Section 3. CCLC sold the two-acre parcel to Henry Clay Taylor on June 1, 1904. Section 3 was not subdivided and platted until November 1905. The Land Company had owned this property, part of the No Gain estate known as the Hamilton tract, since 1890 when it was conveyed from William M. Stewart and wife.¹

The Taylor-Britton property follows the principles established by the Land Company when it created large lots with substantial dwellings for its officers. The residence was constructed some four years before Dudlea, the James Dudley Morgan estate, was built on another two-acre parcel directly across Bradley Lane, at 1 Quincy Street. Henry Clay Taylor and his wife Mary Virginia McGuire Taylor bought the two acre parcel for \$5,000, in 1904. The deed included a covenant stating "No house shall be erected fronting on Connecticut Avenue at a cost less than Five Thousand Dollars." The intent was to assure that a house in such a prominent location would be substantial.²

Though Henry and Mary Taylor had plans to build and share a house on Bradley, the house was built by Mary alone in 1906. The Taylors were living on Lenox Street in Chevy Chase Village by 1903. The Taylor's initial purchase of land on Bradley Lane was on June 1, 1904, just days before the marriage of their daughter, Neville to Capt. Walter R. Gherardi. The Taylors then left for "a tour of the northern lakes" and visited their son Robert in Ontario. On July 10, Henry suddenly became ill and was diagnosed with peritonitis. Sixteen days later, he died at a hospital near Robert's residence. Recovering from the shock of her father's death, Neville Taylor Gherardi purchased land immediately adjacent to her parent's lot on Bradley Lane. The Gherardi's built their house which was completed in 1905. The next year, Mary V. M. Taylor purchased an additional 6,259 square feet at the back (north end) of the property and

¹Subdivision of Section 3, Chevy Chase, Plat filed November 3, 1905; certified by surveyor W. J. Boyd, October 26, 1905. Plat Book 1, Folio 71. Deeds JA 21:419.

²Chevy Chase Survey Report, Phase 2, M-NCPPC, June 1997. M-NCPPC Survey Form, 1 Quincy Street, 1996. Deed 178:114.

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built the house in 1906.3

For much of our country's history, military officers enjoyed a high social status. One third of the original members of the prestigious Metropolitan Club, Washington's first literary and social club, were persons in active military service many of whom were officers of general or flag rank. The demand for a social club unique to military personnel led to the formation of the Army and Navy Club in 1886. The Taylors were members of both the Metropolitan Club and the Army and Navy Club, as well as the Chevy Chase Club. In addition, Henry Taylor was president of the District of Columbia Society, Sons of the Revolution.⁴

Henry Clay Taylor (1845-1904), a hero of the Spanish-American War, led a distinguished military career. A graduate of the Naval Academy in 1863, he defended the Union in the Civil War. He was third president of the Naval War College from 1893 to 1896. Taylor played a significant role in the 1898 naval battle of Santiago in the Spanish War. A faded photoprint of Taylor from c1899 shows a distinguished man of about 50 years old in his U.S. Navy captain's uniform. Taylor was promoted to the grade of Rear Admiral in 1901. In 1902, he was appointed Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Navigation. Taylor died on July 26, 1904 at the age of 59.5

The house was a two and a half story hip-roofed Colonial Revival with three dormers and a one story semi-circular entry portico. The tax assessment records substantiate the construction date. Improvements to the Taylor property were assessed at \$7500 in 1906. Furnishings were valued at an astounding \$2000. In 1910, Mrs. Taylor lived here with a maid and a nurse. Her daughter, Neville Taylor Gherardi, lived next door at 3807 Bradley Lane, in a house that was built one year before the Taylor House. Neville's husband was Lieutenant Commander Walter R. Gherardi who became a Rear Admiral in the Navy, like her father. The Taylors' other five children were grown and living elsewhere.

³The Evening Star, July 27, 1904. Maryland Historical Trust form, Gherardi House, 3807 Bradley Lane, 1998. Social Registers of Washington, 1904-1907.

[†]Carl Charlick, The Metropolitan Club of Washington (1965).

⁵Deed 190:124. This parcel, purchased for \$500.72, was described as part of lots 9 and 10 in Block 2. See Plat Book 1: Folio 90. Henry Clay died on July 26, 1904. Library of Congress photoprint, LC-US262-68957, Prints and Photographs Division.

⁶"Supplementary Notes on the Story of Boxwood," Historic Houses--Boxwood, MCHSVertical File. 1919 aerial photograph, CCHS #296. MHT form 35/66, Gherardi House, 3807 Bradley Lane, M-NCPPC.

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After Mary Taylor's death in 1914, her children maintained the house until 1919 when they sold the property to Alexander Britton. The property was subject to a \$15,000 deed of trust.⁷

Alexander Britton (1867-1925) was an illustrious Washington attorney, a Director of the Federal National Bank, and a graduate of Princeton University and Columbian (George Washington) University. A native of Washington, Britton was long familiar with Chevy Chase, having been, with his wife Louise Schneider Reed, and two daughters, Catherine and Margaret, an early and active member of the Chevy Chase Club. Britton was named to the Club's Board of Governors in 1909 and served as president from 1918 to 1925. An avid outdoorsman, Britton was also a member of the Patuxent Gun Club and the Blue Ridge Rod and Gun Club. When he purchased the Bradley Lane house in 1919, Alexander was a 52 year old widower with two married daughters. Louise had died two years earlier, in 1917.8

In 1922, Alexander Britton commissioned architect George N. Ray to expand the house, adding an east wing with a morning room on the first level and a sleeping porch on the second, as well as enclosing the first story of the west wing to accommodate a library. George Ray (1886-1958) designed several prominent Washington buildings including the Dupont Circle Branch of Riggs Bank.

In 1923, the year after Ray was commissioned to expand the house, Alexander Britton married Marjorie Sabin Pilson. Marjorie had three young daughters. In February 1926, a small cottage described as a playhouse was constructed by Frank Simpson.⁹

⁷ Deed 28:455. Deed 190:246 lists Frederick Taylor and wife, and Mary Taylor Chase, and husband, each of whom lived in Maryland; Roger Taylor and wife of New York; Neville Taylor Gherardi and husband, of Rhode Island. Also Presley Morgan Taylor, and Harry McGuire Taylor.

⁸Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital, 1924, p.128-9. Proctor, Washington Past and Present, Biographical Sketch, 1930. Samuel Henry, who later owned the Britton House, mentions Britton's involvement with the Chevy Chase Club, when, for example, he was a member of the golf team that won the 1911 Middle Atlantic Trophy for the Chevy Chase Club, and when the Brittons attended a 1914 reception at the club for President and Mrs. Taft. Old Days with Horse and Hound, 1960, pp. 58, 89, 103.

⁹Waggaman and Ray Archive - Commission 210, Library of Congress, ADE - UNIT 166. Building Permit 272, February 25, 1926. Sanborn maps, 1916 and 1927. Deed transactions

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Alexander died in June 1926, at the age of 59. Marjorie remarried by July 1928 when she and husband Ipolito Salvoni sold the estate for \$85,000 to Samuel J. Henry, president of the F. H. Smith Company, which financed building construction in the eastern United States, and his wife Adelaide Jullien Henry. The Henrys revolved in the same social realm as the Brittons, having been active in the Chevy Chase Club. Samuel J. Henry, a long-time fox-hunter, was an early member of the Chevy Chase Hunt and in later years wrote the history of that group which disbanded in 1916.¹⁰

The house was further expanded about 1929, when the the east wing was extended and a two-story portico was constructed. This work has been attributed to architect Philip Jullien who was probably related to Adelaide Jullien Henry. A Washington native, Jullien was a nationally acclaimed architect who established his practice in Washington in 1918. He specialized in large-scale projects, including hotels, apartment houses, and office buildings. His best known project in the area was the Congressional Country Club of 1922. Jullien was a Chevy Chase resident by 1920, and is known to have done other work in the community, designing the house at 34 Quincy Street, in Chevy Chase Village.¹¹

The Henrys defaulted on their loan and the property was auctioned off in 1931. It was described as "a large remodeled frame colonial dwelling house of approximately twenty rooms, four baths." Marjorie Salvoni repurchased the property for \$79,000. This ownership too was short-lived as the Salvonis defaulted on their mortgage, and the National Savings and Trust Company took the property in 1934. Following is the description from the sales notice:

This property is located in a highly desirable residential section and is improved by a three story, detached, frame dwelling having approximately 20 rooms and 4 baths,

resulted in Marjorie's co-ownership of this property in 1924. Deeds 354:212 & 213. Building Permit #272, February 1925, Section 3 records.

¹⁰Deed 464:78. "Supplementary Notes". Boxwood Subdivision file, M-NCPPC, April 1996. Samuel J. Henry, "The Old Days with Horse and Hound: Being the Story of the Chevy Chase Hunt, 1892-1916," 1960.

¹¹Proctor, Washington Past and Present (1930), 4:365-6. Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital (1924), 134. Cavicchi, "Architect Designed Houses in Chevy Chase Village," M-NCPPC, 11-1997. The east wing is not shown on the 1927 Sanborn Map, but does appear on 1931 Klingé Atlas. An article on file at the Montgomery County Historical Society states that the tax assessment records for the property increased 135% in 1929 [Supplementary Notes on Boxwood].

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equipped with modern improvements throughout, including an oil burner and also has a car garage thereon, together with a small cottage and is known as No. 1 East Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The small cottage was probably the 1926 playhouse. 12

The property was sold for \$37,500 to Charlotte Engle for the National Savings and Trust Company. In 1937, the property was purchased for \$42,500 by Oscar Benwood Hunter and Sidney Pearson Hunter, who moved here with their four children from 31 Oxford Street. Oscar B. Hunter, was a prominent Washington pathologist and educator. During the Hunters' tenure, the living space was again expanded when the basement was excavated and the attic was finished off. Between 1941 and 1958, a laboratory outbuilding and a four-car garage were constructed. Hunter Laboratories was later taken over by Roche Biomedical Laboratories, an active company today. After owning the property for nearly 40 years, the Hunters sold it in 1976. The house and 1.2 acres were purchased by Paul Anthony and Janet M. Ritacco. 13

The residence was featured in 1980 as a showcase model house by The American Society of Interior Designers, and was a Decorators' Show House for the National Symphony Orchestra in 1995. In May 1996, a subdivision plan was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board which would reduce the lot containing the Taylor-Britton House to 0.9 acres, and establish a separate buildable lot west of the house, fronting on Bradley Lane.¹⁴

¹²Equity Case 7216, Judgement Record CKW 69:102.

¹³The remaining 0.9 acres, fronting on Connecticut Avenue, were sold to the Government of Nigeria. Deeds 654:455 and 4834:714. Proctor, Biography of Oscar Benwood Hunter, pp 456-7.

¹⁴Suzanne Zbailey, "Imposing Elegance in Historic Chevy Chase," *Almanac*, June 16, 1993. *Showhouse Magazine*, 1995. M-NCPPC Subdivision #1-96073, 3815 Bradley Lane.

9. Major Bibliographical References			Survey No. M: 35-65		
	See attached			<u>.</u>	
10. Geographical Da	ta	-			
Acreage of nominated property	54,208 Sq. F	t	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Quadrangle name	7 1		Quadrangle scale		
Verbal boundary description and j	ustification			•	
List all states and counties for pro	perties overlapping state	or county boundaries			
state	code	county		code	
state	code	county		code	
11. Form Prepared B	У				
name/title	1: ***				
organization Clare Lise Cavic	chi, Historic Preservation Pla	nner date			

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

1/98

301-563-3400

Maryland 20910-3760

telephone

state

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring

street & number

city or town

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

410-514-7600

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906) Boxwood 3815 Bradley Lane Section 9:2

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M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906) Boxwood 3815 Bradley Lane Section 9:3

Maryland State Archives.

Washington Star. February 23, 1938. Obituary, Mary (Mrs. Alexander Thompson) Britton.

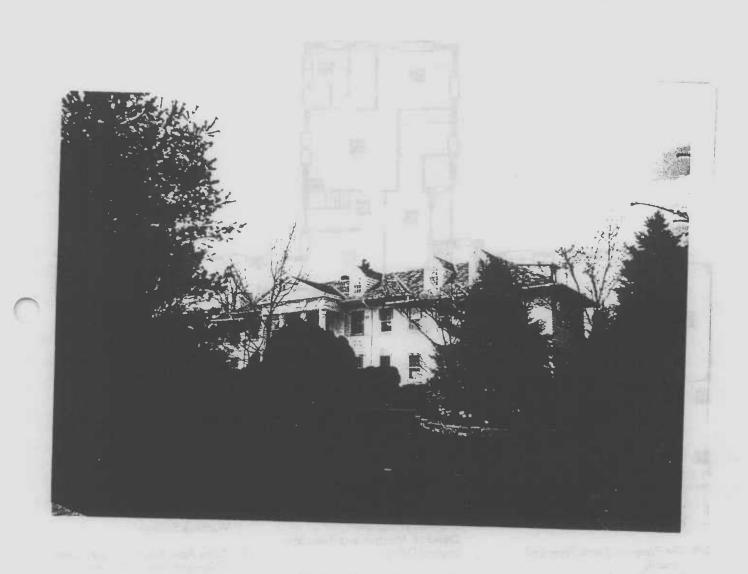
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Who Was Who in the Nation's Capital. Volume One.

Secondary Sources:

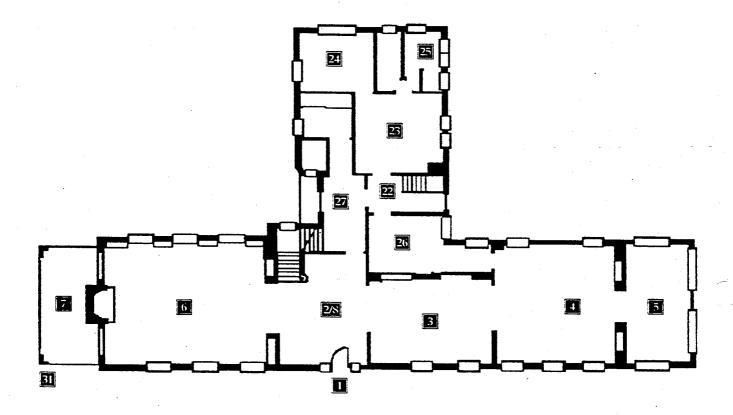
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3815 Bradley Lane M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906) Boxwood



3815 Bradley Lane M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (c1906) Boxwood

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

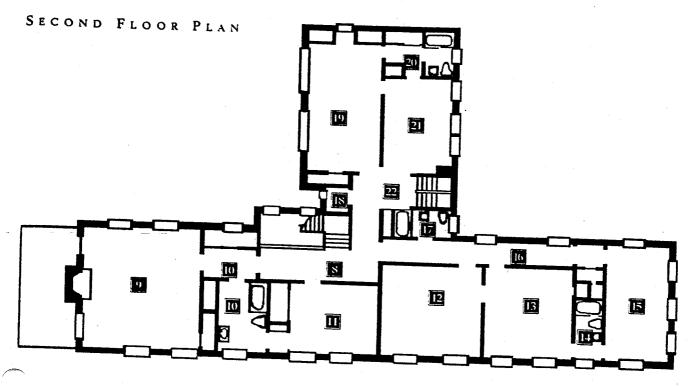


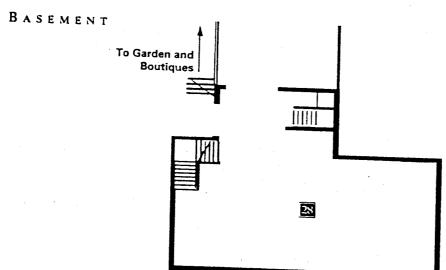
- Each designer's room is identified by a number on the floor plan and at the top of the designer pages that follow.
- 1 The Entrance Terrace Greenscape, Inc.
- 2/8 The Reception Room/Foyer and Landing
 Brown-Davis Interiors, Inc.
- 3 The Library
 Dulaney Design, Inc.
- 4 The Dining Room
 Thomas Pheasant, Inc.
- 5 The Sun Room French Country Living
- 6 The Living Room Barry Dixon, Inc.

- 7 The Garden Room DeFord-Sharp, Inc.
- 8 The Landing (see #2)
- 9 The Master Bedroom
 David H. Mitchell and Associates
 Interior Design
- 10 The Master Bath and Dressing Room Better By Design, Inc.
- 11 The Master Sitting Room
 Martin-Smith International, Inc.
- 12 The Lady's Bedroom Interior Impressions, Inc.
 - 13 The Traveler's Bedroom
 Justine Sancho Interior Design, Ltd.

- 14/15 Oephilia's and Phoebe's Fables Bedroom and Bath Urban Country
- 16 Dumbarton Hoax Warnock Studios
- 17 Dame Rose-Avier's Private Vanity Waterford Interior Design
- 18 The Letter-Writing Nook
 Barbara Campbell Interiors
- 19 The "On-Line" Family Room Sarah Boyer Jenkins and Associates, Inc.
- 20/21 The Gentleman's Study and Bath JDS Designs, Inc.
- 22 The Family Stairway Gallery Printmakers Inc.

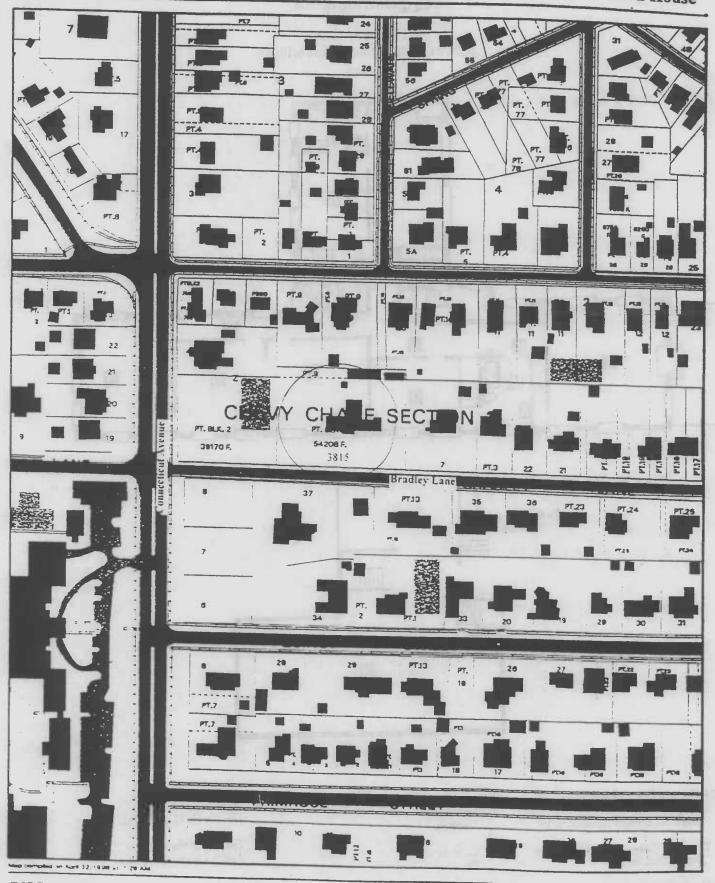
3815 Bradley Lane M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (c1906) Boxwood





- 23/24 The Kitchen and Breakfast Room Drysdale Design Associates, Inc.
- 25 The Mud Room and Potting Room Cottage Industry
- ⁷⁶ The Family Gathering Place
 The Well-Furnished Garden and
 Home
- 27 The Exit Hall and Family Stairway NeoBeju
- 28 Cafe du soleil du soleil
- 29 Courtyard Enchantment
 J. H. Burton and Sons, Inc.
- 30 Garden Rendezvous The Noble Garden, Inc.
- 31 Teatime in the Fall Apple Landscaping, Inc.

OVERALL VICINITY MAP FOR (35/65) Taylor-Britton House



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